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NOTE

Pinnaspis caricis, New Synonym of *Pinnaspis aspidistrae* (HOMOPTERA: DIASPIDIDAE)

Pinnaspis caricis Ferris (1957. *Proc. Hawaii. Entomol. Soc.* 16(2):212) was described from specimens collected on *Ophiopogon japonicus* (Thunb.) Ker-Gawl. (= *Mondo japonica* (Thunb.) Farw.) at Honolulu, Hawaii. According to the description, the median lobes are fused into a single lobe. Because of this character, Ferris compared the species with *Pinnaspis uniloba* (Kuwana) which has fused median lobes but does not otherwise closely resemble *P. caricis*. Ferris also stated that the male of *P. caricis* is not known.

In the type-specimens of *P. caricis* that I examined, the median lobes are not fused but are closely appressed. *Pinnaspis caricis* is identical with *Pinnaspis ophiopogonis* Takahashi (1952. *Misc. Rpt. Res. Inst. Nat. Resources Japan.* 27:11), which is currently considered a junior synonym of *Pinnaspis aspidistrae* (Signoret) (1869. *Ann. Entomol. Soc. Fr.* (ser. 4) 9:443) (Takagi. 1970. *Insecta Matsumurana.* 33(1):106). Although *P. caricis* and *P. ophiopogonis* are apparently parthenogenetic and restricted to few host-plants such as *Liriope* sp., *Ophiopogon* sp. and *Rohdea* sp., there is no reliable morphological character to differentiate them from *P. aspidistrae*. Therefore, until a reliable morphological distinction is found, I think *P. caricis* is best treated as another junior synonym of *P. aspidistrae* (NEW SYNONYM).

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